

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Office Action of April 1, 2009. This Amendment is in full response thereto. Thus, Applicants respectfully request continued examination and allowance of the application.

The claims have been amended to address antecedent basis issues. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Claims 18-37 remain pending in this application.

Drawings:

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). The Examiner states that the figures only mention temperature probe 10 and fail to disclose the safety temperature probe and the product temperature probe. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As shown below in a copy of Figure 3, safety temperature probe 13 is located adjacent to first heated temperature probe 10. Please note that safety temperature probe 13 is also present in Figure 2.

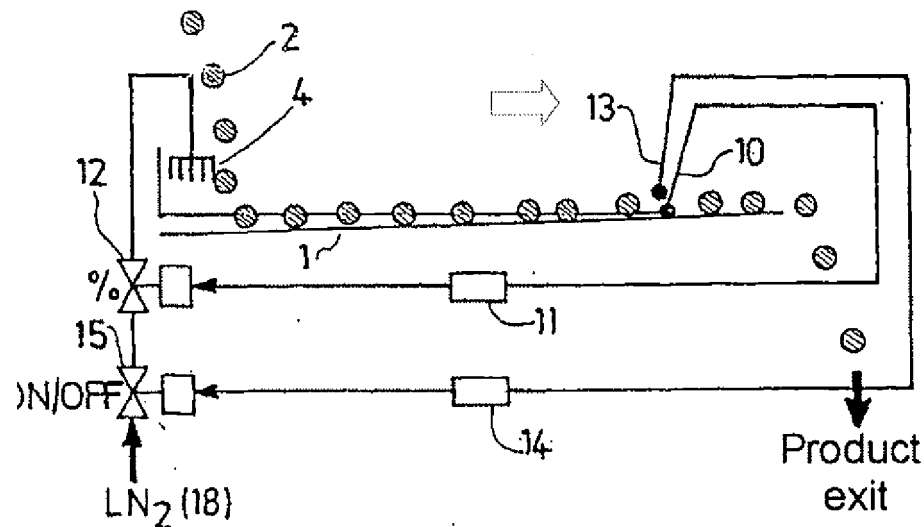


FIG.3

Figure 4, copied on the next page, provides product temperature probe 20 near Product exit. Please note that product temperature probe 20 is also present in Figure 5.

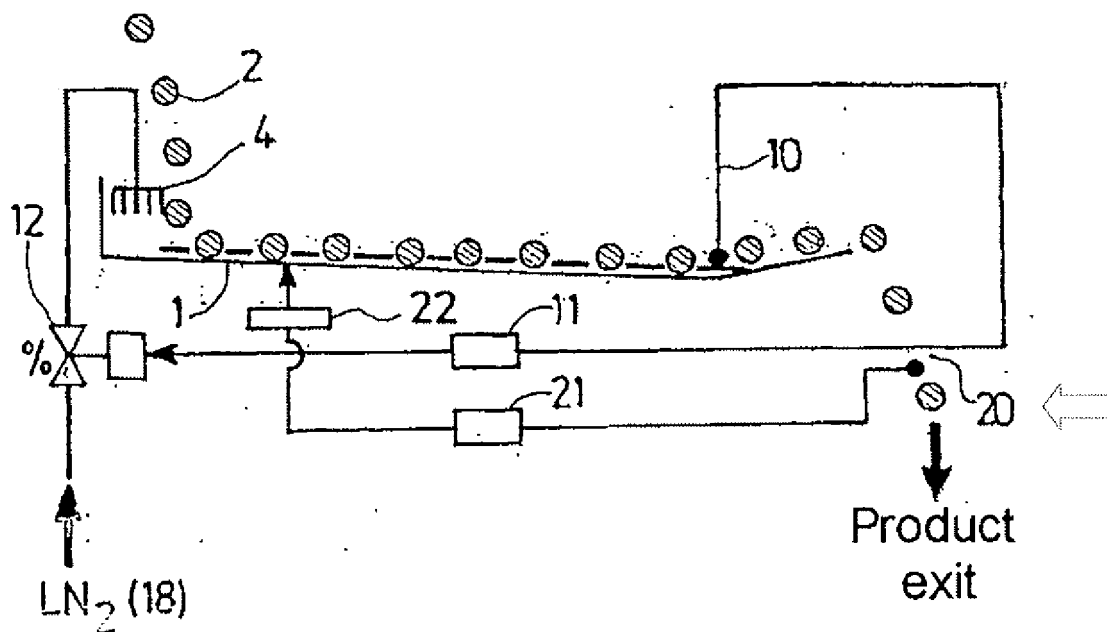


FIG.4

Therefore, as figures 2-5 disclose the claimed safety temperature probe and the product temperature probe, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the instant objection.

Claim Objections:

The Examiner has objected to claims 22 and 36 because the terminology "said product probe", "the inclination slope", and "the frequency of vibration" all appear to lack antecedent basis. Applicants have performed a thorough review of the pending claims and, by the amendments submitted herewith, corrected the cited and additional lack of antecedent basis issues. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he/she is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: **June 1, 2009**

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